

## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

STATE OF THE WATER  
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Weekly Update

January 24, 2007

**Mission Statement:**

*To underscore our commitment to keep you informed, we will send this update weekly. We encourage you to share this water resources information with your constituents.*

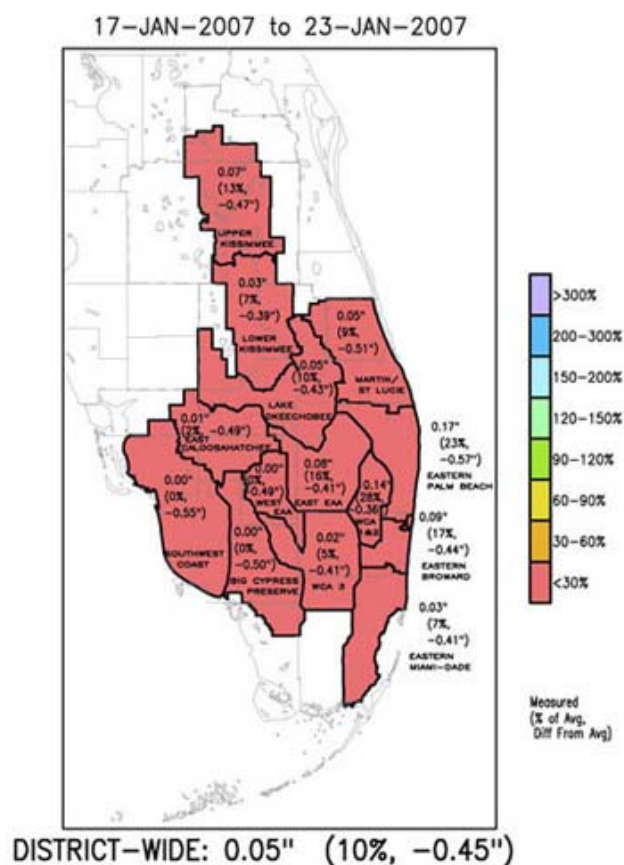


South Florida Water  
Management District  
[www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)

**District News and Happenings**

• The District held Water Resource Advisory Commission Issues Workshop meetings on Jan. 23 and 25. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the concepts presented in the Broward County Water Preserve Areas (a component of the Acceler8 Program) Basis of Design Report and encourage and provide an opportunity for public involvement. The Basis of Design Report is available for review on the Acceler8 website, [www.evergladesnow.org](http://www.evergladesnow.org)

• At the Jan. 20 Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Race for the Cure event, the District took home the award for the largest governmental team for the fourth year in a row. Additionally, the District raised more than \$30,000 for the Komen Foundation.

**District Rainfall**

**Rainfall overview:**

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was negligible.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is for above average rainfall.

**System-wide overview:**

Residual showers in the southeast on Thursday morning will give way to dry and cool conditions from noon through Friday night. The next chance for significant rain may arrive as early as Saturday with any focus likely south of Lake Okeechobee. The outlook for the next ten days is above average precipitation.

**Lake Okeechobee:**

The lake stage is approximately 11.86 feet NGVD 29 (10.56 feet NAVD 88), and is .09 feet lower than it was on this date last week. Surface inflows are 9 cubic feet per second (cfs). Surface outflows are 1, 167 cfs. No algal blooms were observed during last weeks sampling efforts and toxin data are not yet available.

**Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:**

The upper and lower Kissimmee Basins received very little rain during the last seven days. Stages for the upper basin lakes remain below their respective regulation schedules but above the low pool stage. Water levels within the area of Phase I of Kissimmee River Restoration Project continue to remain fairly stable.

**St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:**

In the St. Lucie Estuary, no releases occurred at S-80 or S-308 during the past week. All salinity readings are within the preferred range, and salinity conditions in the estuary are good. The environmental releases to the Caloosahatchee Estuary that began on Dec. 16 continue with a goal of maintaining a discharge of 250 cfs at S-79 from a combination of releases from Lake Okeechobee and runoff from the C-43 Basin. During the past week, discharge at S-79 has averaged 218 cfs with 100 percent supplied by releases from Lake Okeechobee. While the releases continue to moderate salinity in the upper estuary, concentrations exceeded the 10 parts per thousand target last week. Salinity conditions in the Lower Estuary and San Carlos Bay are good.

**Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):**

Recession rates in WCA-2A have created water depths that can support the more long-legged wading birds, and a large movement of birds into this area is expected very soon. Water depths range from 0.72 feet in WCA-2A to 2.26 feet at gage 65 in the southern region of WCA-3A. Recession rates averaged 0.09, 0.03 and 0.08 feet for WCA-3A, WCA-3B and Northeast Shark River Slough. Average depths for these three sites were 1.54 feet, 1.11 feet, and 0.89 feet, respectively. As been the case since November, WCA-1 and WCA-3 continue to be below the regulation schedule, while WCA-2A remains above regulation.

**Everglades National Park:**

Water levels were down again across the Park wetlands for the week.

*Note: This rainfall information is based on rain gauges within the Park. The map above captures District rain gauge data only.*

**Florida Bay:**

Salinity concentrations continued to be fairly stable across Florida Bay this past week, despite some reversal of bay water moving up into the creeks.

**Area Water Restrictions:**

The Southwest Florida Water Management District water restrictions need to be followed countywide in Highlands, Polk and Charlotte counties where the South Florida Water Management District and Southwest Florida Water Management District boundaries overlap.

A Water Shortage Order with mandatory water use restrictions remains in effect in the Lake Okeechobee Service Area and the Northern Indian Prairie Basin. A Water Shortage Warning remains in effect in the Lower East Coast region where residents, businesses, agricultural -- all users -- are asked to continue voluntary water conservation activities. <http://www.sfwmd.gov/site/index.php?id=52>

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**Did you know?**

The South Florida Water Management District manages and protects the water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. Want to hear more? It would be our pleasure to meet with your organization to give a presentation and answer your questions. If interested, please contact Doris Urban at 800-432-2045 or 561-686-8800, ext. 6202.

*\* SFWMD water managers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work together to manage Lake Okeechobee. Water releases from the lake are made in accordance with a federally authorized regulation schedule based on many factors such as time of year, current water conditions, predicted rainfall and lake level.*